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I.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. JOHN HUXHAM.

THE writings of John Huxham have obtained far more notoriety than the incidents of his life, of which scarcely any traits remain. He was the son of a butcher at Halberton, in Devonshire. In early life he appears to have displayed a strong bent towards medical pursuits, which he cultivated with much ardor at Leyden, an university very high in reputation at the period of his studies, and of which he became one of the most eminent graduates. Plymouth was the scene of his professional career, where he finally acquired extensive practice, and realized a considerable fortune. He early obtained entrance into the Royal Society, and communicated several papers on pathology and morbid anatomy, which are printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

Huxham deserves particular honor as being one among those physicians who returned first to the path of observation, and who made nature their especial object of study and reflection, instead of blindly commenting on the dreams of their predecessors. It was not that he despised the knowledge to be gathered from books, or the fruits of former experience; on the contrary he was profoundly versed in the ancient writers, was thoroughly im-

bed in particular with the works of Hippocrates, and composed in the Latin language with much fluency. But he perceived that the master, who was the object of his veneration, had derived his light from a careful and minute inspection into the regions of disease, and in this respect he sedulously imitated his example with a success which few have had the perseverance to attain. He paid an earnest attention to the fluctuations of the seasons, to the changes of weather, and to their influence on the production of disease. This was the field which Huxham chiefly cultivated,—an obstinate and difficult soil, demanding constant attention, and vigilant patience, and most slow in the rewards which it yields to the laborer. In the two volumes of his *Observationes de Aere et Morbis Epidemicis*, he has detailed the results of a register kept at Plymouth during nearly thirty years (from 1724 to 1752.) A third volume was edited after his death, which occurred at Plymouth, in 1768. This supplementary volume was published in 1770, by his son; and it is much to be regretted that this gentleman, who was also a fellow of the Royal Society, did not enrich the work by some records of that father, who has stamped a lasting, although modest celebrity on the name of Huxham. His Treatise on

Fever has become the most popular of his works: it appeared in 1750, and was rapidly translated into German and French. His French biographer (1822) eulogizes it in terms which will not find universal assent in this country; he asserts that it is infinitely superior to the various Treatises on Fever which have been subsequently published in England, without excepting that of Cullen. This preference seems to be founded on his having assigned an inflammatory cause to the greater part of fevers; or, in other words, on his having approximated in principle to the school of Broussais. The German historian of medicine, Sprengel, more temperately ranks his work as the best which appeared on that subject during the first half of the eighteenth century. His discrimination and description of the slow nervous fever form one of the most remarkable features. A singular distinction befel Huxham in consequence of this production. The Queen of Portugal was attacked with fever and was reduced to the last extremity, in spite of the exertions of the physicians of her country. The king at length summoned the physician attached to the British factory. This gentleman declared that he entertained some hope of her recovery, but stipulated on her being resigned to his sole direction. Under his treatment the disorder soon took a favorable turn, and her majesty rapidly convalesced. On being complimented at this successful issue, the physician replied that his only merit consisted in the application of doctrines which he had learned from the work of Huxham. The king immediately procured a translation of it to be made into the Portuguese language, which was published in a

handsome quarto, and was transmitted by him to Huxham in a rich form.

Huxham was also the author of *Observations on Anatomy*, in 1756. An antimonial wine was formerly sold under his name, and a tincture of bark still bears it. His theory and practice were considerably influenced by the old humoral pathology, but he was not a blind partisan. He differs from many practitioners of his age in the paucity of prescriptions scattered through his works, and indeed lays it down, that the physician who knows a disease, cannot be at a loss respecting the form of his remedy; an opinion in which we cannot implicitly defer to his authority. His works have always been popular in Germany and France. They were collected by Reichel, and published in three volumes octavo, at Vienna, in 1773. We believe that a new edition of them will shortly appear at Leipsic, as a portion of the Collected Latin Medical Classics, an enterprise which reflects honor on Germany—since the exhibition of such respect to the great observers of former times does not at all interfere with the pursuit of modern improvements, but is highly useful in tending to correct the prejudice, which flatters itself that every new case is a discovery.

II.

AN ACCOUNT OF A REMARKABLE CHANGE IN THE APPEARANCE OF A TAPE WORM.

By E. BARLOW, one of the Physicians of the Bath Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

THE following communication may be interesting to those whose attention has been directed to the subject of intestinal worms.

The natural history of the *tænia*, seems to have been hitherto but imperfectly understood. All the accounts and descriptions, apply to the worm as it appears when expelled from the body, yet there is reason to believe that the form and condition in the living state, are essentially different from what has been represented, and that this state has hitherto eluded the observation both of naturalists and physicians.

About a year ago, the following circumstance occurred to me: when about to leave the Bath united hospital, one day, one of the nurses hastened to show me a worm, just voided at stool, by a patient under discipline for acute rheumatism. It was such as I had never seen, being about five inches long, dark colored, flattened, yet with a convexity of surface; marked throughout with minute rings, gently swelling from the head to the body, and then gradually diminishing to the tail. Pressed for time, I directed it to be laid aside until the next day, and, for security, I saw it deposited in one of the bleeding porringers, covering it with water to prevent injury from desiccation, and consigning it to the special care of the apothecary's assistant.

On examining the porringer next morning, I found, to my astonishment, not the worm of the preceding day, such as I have described, but a large mass of unfolded tape worm, white, flat, jointed, and in all respects such as patients so often exhibit to their medical attendants after the successful operation of a vermifuge.

My first impression was an unpleasant feeling of my own ignorance. I could not imagine but that I must have overlooked what naturalists had recorded, for it never occurred to me that a fact such as I

witnessed, could be unknown or unnoticed. My first resolve, therefore, was to supply my own deficiency, in full confidence that I should readily find the information I wished. My research, however, was vain, for I could no where find descriptions or delineations of *tænia*, but such as applied solely to the unfolded worm. Thus disappointed, my next procedure was to make a drawing of the worm from memory, and to send this, together with a written account of the circumstance, to an intelligent friend well versed in natural history. But in this, too, I failed, for he could give me no additional information.

I would have afterwards called attention to the subject, by reporting the facts to some medical journal, but my original statement had been mislaid by the friend to whom I submitted it, and I had no leisure at the time, for drawing it up afresh. It continued to occupy my thoughts, however, and I only awaited opportunity to make further inquiries. Perceiving, subsequently, in Dr. Hodgkin's catalogue of the museum at St. Thomas's hospital, that he had paid attention to the subject of worms, it occurred to me to communicate with him, and I accordingly sent him a full and accurate account of what I had witnessed, accompanied with a drawing, and with such remarks as the occasion suggested. Of this communication I took no copy, which I now regret, as it would have saved me trouble in the present instance, and was, if I recollect, rather more full than the brief sketch which I now present. It would gratify me to introduce here the Doctor's polite and interesting reply, but as it was a private communication, I do not feel myself at liberty to make such use of it without his express con-

sent. One sentence only shall I extract, as tending to verify my statement, by showing that the same fact has been observed by another living witness.

"On mentioning the circumstance to my friend, Dr. Addison, he told me that he once took from a dead subject, a worm in the state described by thee, and that having left it, a similar transformation took place." The confirmation of the fact, supplied by Dr. Addison's evidence, is valuable, and, perhaps, two such instances, separately observed and positively attested, might suffice to establish its truth. If the fact be admitted as proved, I see not how we can conclude otherwise, than that the form I have described, exhibits the living state of the worm, and that elongation takes place only when vitality is destroyed. That the contracted and elongated states are both natural to the living worm, I cannot conceive, and my persuasion is, that once elongated, the worm could never again contract so as to recover the form which I witnessed. Bremser, as I understand, has mentioned contracted and elongated states, without noticing further distinction, from which it is clear to me, that he referred only to different degrees of elongation in the dead worm, for that which, according to my view, is the living worm, has no resemblance whatever to the dead one, and could never be confounded with it, neither could any naturalist represent it as being the elongated worm in a contracted state, unless he were, at the same time, prepared to describe the extraordinary change recorded in this paper, which Bremser has not done. The subject may appear insignificant, yet truth is always worthy of being ascertained. If the facts be as I be-

lieve, then are there many errors in the prevailing notions respecting tænia, that require to be corrected. If what I represent be true, and the conclusion, as to the living and dead states of the worm, correct, it is most extraordinary by what power of inanimate matter such complete unfolding, as I witnessed, could be effected. Simple elasticity is the only such power I know. That vital power should counteract elasticity during life, is easily conceived, but the exercise of this to such an extent after death, appears to me quite unexampled.

My object in troubling you with this crude notice, is to call attention to the fact, so as to multiply observers. It can hardly be but that opportunities of witnessing it will recur, but they must be watched, as they are peculiarly liable to be overlooked, for no one meeting with the living worm, and ignorant of its nature, could imagine it to be tænia. It might thus be thrown aside, and the transformation escape notice. In the instance which occurred to me, the change was complete in about twenty hours, but how much within that time, I am unable to say.

[In connexion with the above curious history, which we find in the *Midland Reporter*, we present, from our Glasgow contemporary, the following account of a new genus of acarides.]

A LADY aged about forty, who had labored under a complication of diseases for fifteen years, experienced an insupportable itching over every part of the skin, and when any part of the surface was broken by scratching, thousands of little animals of a brown color were observed, which moved about with

great vivacity. Such was the abundance of these little creatures, that it was necessary to change the patient's linen from three to six times a day. These little insects were capable of living for forty or fifty hours when removed from the patient, but did not appear to settle on any other individual, and the lady's husband experienced no annoyance from them.

On examining these little animals by means of a powerful microscope, neither eyes nor stigmata were detected. Probably the opacity of the body of the animal prevented the discovery of the stigmata, which are usually situated laterally in insects and spiders. The eyes do not exist even in a rudimentary state.

This animal belongs to the class of arachnides, and to the family of acarides. Its mouth, without distinct mandibles, consists of a kind of tube, furnished at the extremity with little hairs, and is almost concealed between two obtuse palpi, which are usually composed of two articulations. The tube and the palpi appear to form by their union a sort of head or prolongation of the anterior part of the body, placed between two shoulders, if we may give that appellation to the swelling produced by junction of the first pair of feet with the body. There is no distinct separation between the head and the body, nor between the thorax and abdomen; the animal is therefore of one piece, and without wings. The animal is furnished with eight articulated feet, furnished with hairs, and terminated by a joint longer than the others. The two anterior feet are the longest, and situated on the lower part of the body, while the remaining six are lateral.—*Annales des Sciences Naturelles*.

This is obviously a new species, and, perhaps, genus of the family of acarides; and although this is the first time the insect has been noticed, yet from the fortunate circumstance of the animal's having been examined by an able observer and zealous naturalist, the history of this parasite is much more perfect than that of the *acarus scobeii*, concerning which so much has been written. It differs sufficiently from the *acarus scobeii* which has been found in the ulcers of man, and domestic animals affected with the itch.

III.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW, CONVENIENT AND CHEAP HERNIARY TRUSS.

By GEORGE THOMSON, M.D.,
Glasgow.

HERNIA is a complaint so universally prevalent among all ranks of the community, that any improvement in the treatment of it, however slight, is of the utmost importance. Many of our greatest improvements in modern surgery have consisted in the simplification of our means of treatment. As an example, we may instance Sir Astley Cooper's bandage for fractured clavicle, where a simple bandage is substituted for the mass of cushions and bandages formerly employed. Simplicity of construction, and efficacy in practice, are the great objects to be aimed at in the improvement of any instrument, bandage, &c. &c., and these advantages this truss most unquestionably possesses.

The spring-truss commonly employed is often very difficult of adjustment, gives great uneasiness to the wearer, and is so expensive as to prevent its use by many poor people who cannot afford to pur-

chase one. This truss possesses the advantages of being easily adjusted, gives comfort rather than pain to the wearer, is of simple construction, and from its cheapness accessible to all.

It consists of a body-belt, to which is attached a thigh strap, and a compress of hard wood. The body-belt should be about four inches in breadth, and furnished with three straps and buckles; those sold by the dealers in braces answer very well. The compress is a circular piece of hard wood, three or four inches in diameter, flat on the back, convex in front, about three or four inches thick in the centre, and gradually turned down to one-fourth of an inch at the edge. It is fastened to the body-belt by nails, so that fully one-half of the flat back of the compress is covered by the belt; a screw-nail must also be fixed in the compress for the adaptation of the thigh strap, which should be about fourteen inches long, furnished with a number of pie-holes one-half inch or less apart, and sewed to the body-belt about nine or eleven inches from the centre of the compress.

When put on, great care must be taken to place the compress immediately over the situation of the hernia, then make the thigh strap as tight as you can, without giving pain in the bone; the lowest buckle of the belt must then be tightened, so as to produce a proper degree of pressure.

It will, in all ordinary cases, give ease to the wearer, as it has done to the inventor, who can both walk and ride with comfort.

Case of the Inventor.—About seven years since he felt a slight pain in the right groin, accompanied with a swelling, not larger than

a pigeon's egg. This gave him little uneasiness: he, however, thought it expedient to consult his surgeon, who instantly pronounced it to be an inguinal hernia, and advised him to procure a spring truss, which he did.

The spring truss, notwithstanding every alteration that could be made, gave him great pain and uneasiness. He tried others with similar results. It then occurred to him, that a sufficient pressure might be obtained, by some other means, so as to dispense with the action of the spring. With this idea, he formed a truss of a belt, a large piece of cork, covered with chamois leather, for a compress, and a thigh strap.

This afforded him great relief, as it gave him neither pain nor uneasiness, though very clumsy. He afterwards thought that the compress might be made smaller, and more convenient, of a piece of hard wood, finely polished. Upon trial he found it succeeded completely, being equally easy and more agreeable.

He has persevered in the use of this truss, till the disease has completely disappeared, though he is above 70 years of age.

Recently he has had an attack on the opposite side, which proves more obstinate than the former; he has made a great many experiments, varying the size and shape of the compress, and the manner of fixing on the straps; and he finds that which has been described, the most convenient and effectual.

Case of Mr. —.—About three years since, in consequence of protracted exertion, was affected with inguinal hernia, for which he wore a spring truss, which gave him much uneasiness; for the last four months he has worn one of the trusses

above described, which has afforded him much relief, and has neither given him pain nor uneasiness, and he is able to take all kinds of exercise without experiencing any inconvenience.

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IV.

OPIUM IN INFLAMMATION.

On the External Use of Opium in Inflammatory Diseases. By ROBERT BURN, Esq. Surgeon, Belford. Communicated by Dr. Bow.

TO DR. BOW, ALNWICK.

Belford, 19th July, 1831.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE very great satisfaction in being able to state, that your plan of treating croup, and other inflammatory diseases, has succeeded with me most completely. In a disease so frightful and fatal as croup, I confess I was not bold enough at first to rely altogether on the means advised by you, but, in addition, applied leeches. However, since you informed me that you found leeching rather to retard than forward the cure, I have discarded them, and I agree with you that the liniment acts with more marked effect in the cases in which they have not been applied. All my cases, in which the liniment and calomel only were used, confirm the truth of the observations you made in the London Medical and Physical Journal for this month, viz. that the change from disease to health is so rapid, that there is no convalescent period. I sincerely congratulate you on this most decided improvement in our art, and enclose a few out of many cases which have come under my care.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours truly,

ROBERT BURN.

CASE I.—25th May, 1831. Mary Pile, aged eleven months, has been ill for thirty-six hours, with difficulty of breathing, &c. The symptoms evidently becoming worse, I was sent for, and found the case one of decided croup. I ordered two drachms of liniment* to be rubbed on the breast and neck, and to be repeated at intervals for two hours; also two grains and a half of calomel every two hours, until the bowels were freely opened.

26th May. The child got better and better after each application of the liniment; the bowels have been freely opened.

27th. Perfectly well.

CASE II.—16th June, 1831. — Sutherland, aged two years six months: breathing very difficult; skin hot; pulse rapid; cough frequent, with the peculiar croupy sound. Three drachms of liniment, and two grains of calomel every hour until it operate on the bowels.

17th. The child was immediately relieved by the liniment, but, as the parents were prejudiced in favor of leeches, four had been applied.

19th. Quite well.

CASE III.—20th June, 1831. Mary Clarke, aged three years, has been ill for twenty-four hours of a supposed cold: the case, however, is decidedly one of croup, characterized by difficult and sonorous breathing, cough, &c. Three drachms of liniment.

Nine, P. M. The child was immediately relieved by the liniment; indeed, as the mother said, before it was all applied. The breathing is again somewhat heavy, and the cough still croupy. Repeat the liniment, with a dose of calomel.

* The formula for this liniment may be found on the 37th page of this volume of this Journal.

21st June. Has slept well all night; breathing relieved; cough easier. Repeat the liniment.

Evening. Continues better.

22d. Quite well.

CASE IV.—2d July, 1831. — Crinkly, aged nine years six months: a most formidable case of croup, of three days' standing. The difficulty of breathing was most alarming; skin remarkably hot, and pulse exceedingly quick. Upwards of three drachms of liniment were immediately applied, and a full dose of calomel given.

3d. The relief from the liniment was almost instantaneous, but, as a child of the same family had died of the disease some time before, the parents could not be persuaded to trust to the liniment alone, so they applied six leeches, which bled freely. The calomel has acted on the bowels.

4th. The patient continues well, excepting some debility, occasioned by the bleeding.

CASE V.—11th July, 1831. — Robson, aged two years. This case was, with regard to the symptoms, exactly similar to the last: it was seen at eleven P. M., and two drachms of the liniment were ordered to be occasionally applied to the neck and breast; calomel.

12th. The child was immediately relieved, and slept well during the night. The bowels have acted.

13th. Quite well.

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BOSTON, OCTOBER 25, 1831.

THE CHOLERA AND ITS TREATMENT.

WE tender our acknowledgments to Dr. Smith for his polite attention in

sending us the following directions of Dr. Walker, and the treatise of Dr. Jaehnichen. Practical directions, coming, as do these, from a distinguished medical practitioner, who has been not only in the midst of the disease, but also engaged in the treatment of it, have a value and an interest far above any speculations of those who have never attempted its cure, or witnessed its symptoms.

To the Editor of the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

Accompanying this note is a manuscript from the pen of Dr. Walker, an eminent English practitioner at St. Petersburg, on the treatment of the Cholera. I am indebted for it to Capt. Turner, of the ship *Fama*, of this port, by whom it was brought. Yesterday a duplicate copy was received by Capt. Hooper, of the ship *Athens*, together with a small treatise on the Cholera,—"Quelques Reflexions sur le Choléra-Morbus, par le Dr. Jaehnichen, Membre du Conseil Temporaire de Médecine," printed at Moscow, from which you may glean some interesting facts.

It is proper to remark, that Dr. Walker drew up this paper in the plainest manner, that it might be understood by persons who might be taken sick at sea, on a homeward bound passage, from a country where the Cholera has raged in a most frightful manner.

Within a few days, I have had an opportunity of conversing with an intelligent gentleman from St. Petersburg, who happily recovered from the Cholera, under the efficient management of Dr. Walker. He assured me that common table salt—a spoonful in a tumbler of water, often repeated—not only speedily relieved him from violent pains, but ultimately restored him to perfect health.

Notwithstanding the fact, that I have opportunities, almost daily, in

boarding Russian vessels, of making inquiries relative to the character and devastations of the Cholera, in the north of Europe, of gentlemen who have recently been eye-witnesses, I can gather nothing that is satisfactory to a medical man.

Respectfully and

Obediently yours,

J. V. C. SMITH.

*Quarantine Ground,
Boston Harbor, Oct. 17, 1831.*

Here follow the directions of Dr. Walker, referred to in the above note.

Treatment of the Cholera.

The disease may be said to begin in two different ways.

1. With a peculiar feeling in the head—rather giddiness than head-ach—at the same time an oppression in the chest, with pain about the heart, palpitation, great anxiety and feeling of weakness. In this case a bleeding of two teacupfuls (8 ounces) is of the utmost service when done immediately; or if the great anxiety continue, double that quantity, or even more, if the person is young and robust, should be taken. This followed by a dose of one or two tablespoonfuls of castor oil, repeated every three hours till the bowels are well opened, will often stop the disease at once. For some days the diet should be only broth and gruel, tea, sago, arrow root, rice.

The other way is, beginning as a common looseness, which continues from a few hours to several days, before the violent symptoms of the disease come on. No looseness should therefore be neglected at the time the cholera prevails, but should be checked immediately, and what I have found best, is to have a thin decoction of salep, to eight ounces of which I put a little syrup, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce (according to the age) of London paregoric elixir, $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of spirit of peppermint, and twenty grains of salt of tartar, or wormwood, or car-

bonate of potash, (different names for the same stuff.) To take a tablespoonful of this every two or three hours, according to the frequency of the purging. When there is no apothecary to prepare this, then to a large tumblerful ($\frac{1}{2}$ English pint) of mint or balm tea, put two tablespoonfuls of thick boiled salep, or arrow root, or sago, or rice gruel, and one or two teaspoonfuls of London paregoric (according to the age and violence of the purging), and of this one tablespoonful is to be taken every two or three hours.

The drink should be toast-water, or rice-water; the diet entirely farinaceous, as gruel, rice, sago, arrow root, weak broth, but no solid food, nor wine or spirits. If the purging still continue, but without pain, it may be checked or stopped by taking a teaspoonful of a powder composed of three teaspoonfuls (in powder of course) of bread burnt to a coal, and one teaspoonful of alum powder, well rubbed together in a mortar. The teaspoonful may be repeated thrice a day. If there is much pain or griping, or if there are calls without evacuating anything but a little slime, a small dose of castor oil ($\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 tablespoonful) should be taken, or a small teaspoonful of rhubarb with five to ten drops of laudanum, and one or two tablespoonfuls of peppermint water, or one or two drops of essence of mint; and then afterwards the mixture above ordered is to be renewed. With this sort of purging, putting the feet into warm water, and taking some very hot mint or balm tea, and covering up so as to bring on sweating, are also of great service.

After these two states have continued for a time varying from a few hours to two or three days, the violent symptoms which more particularly mark the disease come on. It also frequently attacks suddenly, although I am very much disposed to think, that even in these cases there

had been premonitory symptoms which had been overlooked.

The attack is generally ushered in by a sense of weakness, trembling, giddiness, nausea, violent retching, vomiting and purging of a watery, starchy, whey-colored, or greenish fluid, and commonly without griping. These are accompanied or followed by cramps, generally beginning in the toes, and extending thence to the calves of the legs, the thighs—then the fingers, hands, arms, belly and chest. These are soon succeeded by pains, tightness and oppression in the chest, great anxiety and restlessness, loss of voice, great sense of internal heat, inordinate thirst, and incessant calls for cold water, which is no sooner swallowed than instantly rejected with a quantity of phlegm or fluid like the seethings of oatmeal; the pulse either altogether imperceptible, or so indistinct as to give only a sense of fluttering; the respiration laborious and hurried, with long sighs; skin cold, clammy, covered with great drops of sweat, and of a blueish livid hue; great and sudden prostration of strength; anguish; agitation, so as not to remain above a few moments in the same position; eyes heavy and dull, and sunk in their sockets, the pupils dilated; the skin of the feet and hands shrunk and puckered; the whole surface cold, and nearly devoid of feeling.

I generally give at first (when the vomiting has begun) a draught with 30 drops of laudanum, 30 or 40 drops of ether, in a tablespoonful of peppermint water, or water with 2 or 3 drops of the essence of peppermint; if the weakness is very great, I give it in a wineglass of brandy or rum; if vomited, *immediately* repeat the dose; if kept sometime on the stomach, give five drops laudanum with ten ether, every hour or two, or three, according as the stomach retains them, or, if soon rejected, give at short intervals. When these draughts do not stay at all on the

stomach, I have given, with advantage, common salt dissolved in water, and it has been a good deal employed here by itself, with great success. Two tablespoonfuls are dissolved in a tumbler (large) of water, and drank off at once, which is generally vomited up; then a tablespoonful of a solution of the same strength is given every $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, till the vomiting stops, when nothing is to be given for some time but the mint or balm tea, with the sago or arrow root in it, and afterwards a dose of castor oil, one or two tablespoonfuls. If the vomiting and purging do not moderate soon under this treatment, I give calomel 2 grains with $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of opium, every two or three hours, giving, between, the mixture with mint or balm tea, and paregoric as formerly, which are not to be continued after the purging and vomiting has ceased for an hour, but a dose of castor oil, or salts, given immediately, and repeated after three hours, if the bowels have not been moved, or if the evacuations are still of the same appearance.

When there is pain in the stomach, and the vomiting, the magistry of bismuth, in doses of three grains every three hours, has been employed by many with great benefit, (first at Warsaw,) but I cannot say that with me it has done much. The drink should be the mint or balm tea, toast-water—even plain water, but not more than a tablespoonful at a time, because, if drank in any quantity, it is vomited up immediately; and yet I have heard of many instances where drink has been allowed in great quantities, which, although vomited at first, have at last staid on the stomach. Weak lemonade has been allowed by some. With this the external treatment is of the utmost consequence; the arms and legs should be rubbed well with hot strong spirits, spirits and vinegar, spirits that have stood on capsicum or horse-raddish, mustard with oil of

turpentine, oil mixed with hartshorn—the rubbing to be done with flannel, or even a brush, and continued with perseverance till the limbs become warm—the legs to be wrapped in clothes wrung out of hot water. One of the most effectual applications is a plaster of flour of mustard and vinegar, with a very little common flour, to the pit of the stomach, but large enough to come up a good deal on the chest, and downwards on the belly, and kept on till it produces much irritation and redness, which will require from one to two or three hours. This must never be omitted. The same plasters are also to be applied to the calves of the legs, to the inside of the thighs, round the ankles and wrists like bracelets, when the person is very low, and the extremities are very cold. When there is no mustard, or when I want to make an impression in a still shorter time, I have used, with advantage, clothes dipped in quite scalding water, to the pit of the stomach, so as almost to scald the skin, and sometimes blisters have been raised in this way, and done good. Flannels dipped in hot oil of turpentine, and applied all over the belly, have been also employed with great benefit, and of a mixture of oil of turpentine, say one tumbler, common oil $\frac{1}{2}$ tumbler, and some hartshorn, one wineglass has been found very good. Bags with *hot* salt, or bran, or oats, &c. should be applied all over the belly; and, in short, every means used to restore the heat, and bring on a natural warm perspiration, which is very different from that cold clammy sweat, which seems merely forced through the pores by the agony.

Starch gylsters, with 30 or 40 drops of laudanum, are also sometimes very efficacious in stopping the irritation of the bowels, and might be repeated every two or three hours if they are not long retained in the bowels.

Great care must be taken during

the convalescence to allow nothing but plain and not strong broth, gruel, arrow root, sago, rice gruel; and the bowels must be kept open by small doses of castor oil, salts, rhubarb and magnesia.

Not unfrequently a kind of low nervous fever succeeds, accompanied with dulness or even stupor; if there are any leeches to be had, four or six or eight should be applied to the temples; a blister behind the ears, to the nape of the neck; if there is pain at the stomach on pressure, leeches there also, and a blister, or first the mustard plaster might be tried. Inwardly, give merely thin gruel, or sago, or arrow root, or, where it can be had, a decoction of marsh mallows root (*Althea*), with two or three grains of salt of tartar (wormwood), or carbonate of potass, or soda; also one grain of calomel, from four to six times a day, for two or three days.

If the tongue is red like raw beef, no food must be given except these mucilaginous liquids, and no wine or spirit, even although the patient be very weak; for that kind of tongue indicates a kind of inflammation, extending in all probability into the stomach, and which would only be increased by any stimulant, as wine or spirits.

The effervescent draughts, made with salt of tartar twenty grains, and lemon juice one tablespoonful, and some water, are useful in such cases, and might be repeated six to eight times a day. The soda powders do very well instead of these; and, I had forgotten to say, that frequently these draughts, or the soda powders, are found very useful where the vomiting continues in spite of every other remedy.

In bad cases the vomiting and purging cease before death, because the person is too weak; give, then, stimulants, warm brandy, ether, the aromatic spirits of hartshorn. When the disease attacks suddenly, after

eating, an emetic should be given first, and plenty of warm water drank to clear the stomach.

Everybody should live in a moderate way, not making any change in their way of living, but continuing what they had found by experience to be best for them.—**AVOID CATCHING COLD.**

[We shall give some account of the treatise of Dr. Jaehnichen in our next.]

SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

2. *Among the Hebrews previous to the Captivity.*—Among the Israelites as well as in Egypt, the medical and sacerdotal offices were closely united. The Levites, who had the charge of the sacred rites, also devoted themselves to the observation of disease. The particular care required by the laws of Moses, of those who were infected with leprosy, are well known, and the distinctions mentioned by him in the forms of this disease, have been in many respects adopted by modern nosology. For the rest, it appears that epidemics were frequently visited upon the people by divine appointment, as punishment for their sins, and were arrested in consequence of their repentance and prayers. A remarkable instance of this sort is recorded in the reign of David, whose vanity in numbering the people was punished by a plague, which threatened to depopulate the country, and which was finally stayed only when the anger of the Deity was appeased. Neither science nor art, in their modern sense, appear to have been much cultivated. We

are told, indeed, of the vast acquisitions of King Solomon, in natural science; but so little were the arts of life advanced among his subjects, that it was necessary to employ workmen from Tyre in the construction of the temple.

It must be remembered, however, that the sacred scriptures, devoted to higher subjects, refer only incidentally to the productions and efforts of human skill. The diseases and cures principally recorded, are those in which Divine interposition was most manifest. But these facts, however interesting, scarcely belong to a history of medicine, considered as a human science; nor is there reason to believe, that the knowledge which this people carried with them into Egypt, received in their hands any considerable addition.

3. *Among the Hindoos.*—Like the Egyptians, the Hindoos were in the time of Alexander, and from that period until now, divided into tribes or castes; among which the brachmins included the learned men and physicians. There also existed in India a sect of philosophers called Samaneans, the Schamans mentioned by modern travellers in Thibet and Malabar. These were divided into two classes, the *Hylobians*, or livers in the woods, and the physicians, properly so called. These last led a life of great simplicity, treated diseases principally by diet and regimen, and among remedies, placed the greatest faith in ointments and cataplasms. In large towns, the general superintendence of the sick was confided to a peculiar class of magistrates, under whose inspection the

Schamans practised their art. We are told by Strabo, of a law forbidding those who discovered a poison to make it known, unless they had found an antidote to its effects. In this case the discoverer was highly honored and rewarded; but if the poison alone were promulgated, his crime could be only expiated by death.

Their therapeutic system was in great part theurgic, that is, consisting of sacrifices and magic rites, intended to avert the anger of evil genii. This system, not limited to the banks of the Ganges, has spread into Persia, Syria, and Egypt, and reached its highest perfection in the city of Alexandria.

The brachmins of the present day are not devoid of medical science, but content themselves with transmitting, without improvement, the opinions and practice of their ancestors. They possess, on the art of healing, some ancient works written in verse, and containing formulas equally applicable to all forms of disease.

The pathology of the brachmins is very absurd. They attribute all diseases of the skin to worms. According to them, the body is composed of an hundred thousand parts, of which number seventeen thousand parts are vessels, every one of which has seven different outlets, and into which enter ten different species of winds. All kinds of diseases result from the irregular direction of these winds, and as it is the external air entering the lungs which produces them, the best preservative from disease is not to breathe too fast.—It

is said that the brachmins are acquainted with the virtues of plants, and employ some medical articles of this class with advantage. They prescribe limewater and the cowhage (*dolichos pruriens*) as remedies in worms. They make up pills with the juice of the euphoria and maize, which they administer with advantage in a variety of cases. They prescribe rice in cholera morbus, and baths of earth in the beribery. In acute fevers they prescribe rigid diet, and sometimes, though rarely, bleeding. In smallpox they use a modified antiphlogistic regimen, and, according to Mackintosh, they possess an ointment, the composition of which is unknown to Europeans, for making the pits left by this disease to disappear. In venereal disease they use articles indigenous to the country, and especially the pills above mentioned, which appear to possess considerable efficacy. They are also asserted to possess a remedy against the bites of serpents, of a narcotic quality, which is almost always successful.

Among their general remedies, bleeding, as has been observed, holds a low rank, and is never resorted to in those forms of disease which are peculiar to the country. In this view of the subject they seem to be warranted by experience. They are equally opposed to the use of enemas. Their favorite application is caustic, which they apply as do the Japanese, in slow fevers and in cholera. In ophthalmia they scarify the eyelids, and make incisions in the forehead. They have no idea of amputation.

Such is the state of medicine among the Hindoos, as represented by modern travellers who have visited India. As they have profited little by the improved state of the science, in those nations with whom they have come in contact, so it is highly probable that they have made few additions to the knowledge of their forefathers, and that the above statement, so far as correct, might serve, with little alteration, for any period, however remote, in the history of the country.

SCOTCH WHISKEY.

At a late meeting of the Medical Society of Glasgow, an Essay was read by Mr. Ritchie on the subject of Intemperance. The author dwelt on the baneful effects of ardent spirits on the body in health, and the utter inutility of spirituous medicines in disease. He condemned, in no measured terms, the use of vinous potations, and advocated, with laudable zeal, the new, and, among us certainly, the popular creed of total abstinence. This essay produced a brisk and able discussion in the Society, the account of which occupies many pages in the last Glasgow Journal. All the members who took part in the debate, dissented from the essayist. One believed it futile, to reason from the abuse of ardent spirits, against their temperate use. Beef and coffee might by such reasoning be proscribed, and so might bread, or even water itself. The latter, as well as rum and brandy, if taken too largely, produces headach, acidity, and many digestive difficul-

ties,—they unman the limbs, and debilitate the mind. A second, agreed with his friend in opinion, that an occasional and temperate use of spirituous liquor could not injure a man, and that under many circumstances it proved highly invigorating to the bodily and mental energies. A third, could not think with Mr. R. that total abstinence was expedient in all cases, and he thought, that by advocating it, the temperance society were taking a measure, which would not aid them at all in the accomplishment of their laudable object, but rather produce reaction.—Dr Buchanan could not subscribe to the doctrine of the essayist, that the moderate use of *vinous* liquors predisposed to epidemic diseases. He believed the reverse, and was reminded of an anecdote the late Dr. Gregory told of himself. When a medical student Dr. G. went to Leyden to receive the instructions of the celebrated Gaubius. He there found many of his countrymen, and about a dozen of them were in the habit of associating together as messmates. They had many discussions as to the kind of diet best fitted to guard against the remittent and intermittent fevers then prevailing around them. They were all in favor of wine and a generous diet, except one obstinate water-drinker, and it turned out that he was the only one of the number “shaken by the ague.” Dr. Macleod believed ardent spirits much less injurious to the health than malt liquor. He considered the designation of Temperance Societies, assumed by several thorough-going associations, as much a misnomer as

would be that of Intemperance Societies;—for they condemned alike the *temperate* and *intemperate* use of ardent spirits. Abstinence Societies they might be called, but the title of Temperance Societies belonged to those who, like himself, with an utter abhorrence of excess, believed the temperate use of such stimulus beneficial. Dr. Scouler thought that the general use of some kind of stimulus would probably continue as long as mankind existed. The Turk has his opium—the Hottentot his narcotic stimulant obtained from hemp—the South Sea Islander his yava—the Siberian his mushroom. These, and others, were quite as injurious as alcoholic liquors. But Dr. S. was of opinion, that by diffusing knowledge among the people, and thus raising them in the scale of refinement, such liquors would be gradually exchanged for the more harmless beverages, such as beer and ale. Dr. Armour was thoroughly convinced, from his own observation, that much suffering comes to mankind, and much money to the faculty, through intemperance. He is equally satisfied, that when fatigued and wet and cold, much good is produced, and sickness prevented, by a small quantity of spirits taken undiluted, or with warm water. Of this last the Doctor speaks from personal experience. So in certain diseases, as typhous fevers, chronic diarrhoea in children, &c. he believed that many lives had been saved by the administration of hot brandy and water. Dr. Anderson objected to the arguments adduced by Mr. R. from experiments on dogs, as it never

having been intended that the lower animals should drink either wine or spirits, they must have been forcibly introduced into their stomachs, and consequently followed by bad effects. Mr. Cowan regarded the statement, that fifty millions of gallons of spirits were annually consumed in the united kingdom, as a great exaggeration, and regretted that such libels on the morals of the people should be permitted to go abroad. Mr. Watt dissented from the opinion of the essayist, that the epidemic of 1817–18, in Ireland, was traceable to the abuse of ardent spirits. It was universally known to be occasioned by the starving state of the people, who wandered about in absolute misery and want, without the means of procuring food or clothing, far less their favorite whiskey. Dr. Davidson allowed, that drunkards were the exclusive subjects of delirium tremens, but he was not aware that a moderate indulgence in alcoholic liquor predisposed the system to other diseases: scarcely the usual proportion of such as allow themselves this indulgence are affected with typhus. He believed the only mode of suppressing intemperance to be, to improve the moral and intellectual condition of the lower classes.—Not one, in fact, except Mr. Ritchie himself, appeared to defend the sentiments expressed in his essay. This he did at very considerable length.

CHOLERA.

WE have written to Dr. Walker, whose directions are published in to-day's Journal, for a full account of his observations of the course and

treatment of this disease at St. Petersburg, and shall favor our readers with his reply as soon as received.

Red Color of the Blood.—The remarks published in this Journal in December last, by Dr. Sewall of Washington, are copied into the London Medical Gazette, the editor of which work has addressed to Dr. S. some queries on the subject. As his reply will probably illustrate some important points in his communication, we hope to have the pleasure of presenting it to our readers very shortly. The subject is one of deep import at the present time.

Surgery.—Few examples are before the world more eminently illustrating the advantages to mankind of the culture of the surgical art, than the recent case of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. There is every reason to believe, that the life and services of that venerable and invaluable Jurist will be prolonged many years, by the operation of lithotomy which he has undergone at Phila-

delphia. It was performed by Dr. Physick, "with a professional skill," says the National Gazette, "which could be rivalled only by the admirable fortitude with which it was borne. If we could select feelings to be envied, we should indicate those of a surgeon successful on such an occasion, with a sensibility such as that of Dr. Physick. The operator was thoroughly alive to all the merits of his patient; his esteem he probably thought so great, that it could not be enhanced; but he witnessed a simple force of resolution, which must have convinced him that the man is equal to the judge." On the 17th inst., three days after the operation, Dr. P. pronounced his venerable patient as well as any man *of any age*, at the same period.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending October 15, 32. Males, 14—Females, 18.

Of bilious fever, 1—intemperance, 1—cholera, 1—lung fever, 1—dysentery, 1—scarlet fever, 2—consumption, 4—spasms, 1—drowned, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—old age, 1—tumor, 1—canker in the bowels, 1—decline, 1—hooping cough, 1—mortification, 1—convulsions, 1—croup, 3—unknown, 6.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LECTURES ON THE DISEASES OF THE EYE.

A COURSE of Lectures on the Diseases of the Eye, will be delivered at the Rooms of the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, to commence on Wednesday, the ninth of November, and continue twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday.

The demonstration of the anatomy of the organ will be much aided by improved wax models just received by the Institution from Italy.

The Pathology of the Eye will be explained by illustrations from the cases which attend the Infirmary.

The Lectures will be delivered in the afternoon, at half past three o'clock, which will afford opportunity to Medical Students to attend.

October 2, 1831.

JOHN JEFFRIES.

. The Lectures are delivered for the benefit of the Infirmary.

Oct. 18.

FRESH MEDICINES AND LEECHES.

CHARLES WHITE, No. 269 Washington, corner of Winter Street, has received, by the late arrivals from Europe, a fresh supply of Medicines and Leeches. 3t Oct. 11.

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